

# Groundnut Leaf Miner

## Recognize the problem

The groundnut leaf miner is a key pest of groundnut. The damage to groundnut is caused by both larval and adult stages. The adult is a tiny moth measuring about 6 mm in length with brownish grey coloured wings. The larvae mine the leaves and feed inside the leaflet. Initially, short blister-like mines can be seen on the upper side of the leaflets. The larvae come out of the mine after 5-6 days and migrate together to nearby leaves to feed and pupate in the webbed leaves. The mined areas in the leaf become dry. In severe infestation, the entire foliage dries and gives a burnt appearance.

## Background

The groundnut leaf miner attacks both rainy season and post-rainy season crops. Its incidence is severe July-August and February-March and the losses can vary from 25 to 75%. Soybean is also one of its important hosts.

## Management

This pest can be managed using cultural control measures, resistant varieties, biological control agents and by spraying chemicals only when the pest population is above the economic threshold level (ETL).

- Intercrop groundnut with trap crops such as pearl millet and cowpea
- Practice crop rotation with non-leguminous crops such as maize, cotton and sorghum. Cotton-sorghum-groundnut is the best crop rotation combination to give better yields and reduce the incidence of leaf miner
- Use resistant varieties viz., ICGV 87160 (ICG (FDRS)) and NCAC 17090 which give better yields in the areas of high leaf miner incidence
- Set up light traps to attract the moths during night hours and to monitor the pest populations
- Remove the alternative hosts and weeds viz., lucerne, amaranthus, berseem and *Indigofera hirsuta* to control the growth of the leaf miner population
- Release *Trichogramma chilonis* @ 50000/ha twice (7-10 day interval)
- The chemical spray is only recommended when you have found 5 larvae per plant at the seedling stage i.e. 30 days after emergence (DAE), 10 larvae per plant per plant at the flowering stage (50 DAE), and 15 larvae per plant at the pod filling stage (70 DAE)
- If the populations are above ETL use a chemical spray with dimethoate at 200-250 ml a.i./ha or profenofos 20EC @ 2ml/ litre, 30-45 days after sowing

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Aproaerema modicella*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: India



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Leaf miner (Larva). (Photo by NBAII)



Leaves damaged by mature leaf miner larvae. (Photo by NBAII)

